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Committee for Programme and Coordination
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Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fifth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdelatif **DeBabeche** (Algeria)

Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation (item 4 (c))

Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendation made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-second session on the in-depth evaluation of legal affairs

1. At its 8th to 12th meetings, on 10, 13, 14 and 15 June 2005, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-second session on the in-depth evaluation of legal affairs (see E/AC.51/2005/5).

2. The representative of the Office of Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of it.

Discussion

3. Views were expressed welcoming the substantial implementation of the recommendations contained in the in-depth evaluation (E/AC.51/2002/5), as reported on in the triennial review. Several delegations noted the importance of and expressed support for the work of the Office of Legal Affairs.

4. Reference was made to the issue raised in recommendation 9 on the responses from Governments to requests for information from United Nations organs. It was noted that the annual debate in the Sixth Committee elicited detailed information

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from delegations and it was suggested that the summaries of those debates should be made more specific and used as a source of information. Furthermore, increased effort should be made to ensure that reports were available on a timely basis. The Office of Legal Affairs was requested to provide support to developing countries in terms of fellowships and to make provision for such fellowships in the biennial programme budget.

5. In terms of recommendations 1 and 5, a question was raised as to whether it was appropriate for the Legal Counsel to offer his views on the recommendations made by OIOS in the manner reflected in the report, while others were of the view that the comments offered by the Office of Legal Affairs were reasonable and were a matter of procedure.

6. Concern was expressed regarding recommendation 12 on the backlog and production of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*. OIOS updated the information contained in the triennial review and clarified that the trust fund to be established in accordance with resolution 59/44 of 2 December 2004 had been set up in April 2005 and that arrangements were in place to reduce the backlog of at least some volumes of the *Repertory* by 2007. Therefore, events had overtaken the issues raised in paragraphs 34 and 35 of the triennial review report. In the light of this new information, OIOS has concluded that the Office of Legal Affairs has formulated and implemented a strategy to eliminate the backlog, and recommendation 12 is considered to have been implemented.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. **Following the clarifications received during the formal session, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly take note of the findings of the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at the forty-second session on the in-depth evaluation of legal affairs.**